(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no quantitative ceilings fixed for export of seeds for sowing or planting purposes. However, under the current Export-Import Policy, export of seeds and planting material listed in the Negative List of Exports Part II — Restricted Items is permitted subject to licencing. Export of such seeds is permitted keeping in view the domestic availability and demand.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

**Complaints regarding export of inferior quality of tea**

2036. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: SHRI K.M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether repeated complaints have been made by the Russian importers about inferior quality of tea being supplied by Indian exporters;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy in Russia had earlier pointed out that the tea industry should take the issue of quality of tea being exported more seriously; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to enforce strict standards for testing the samples of tea prior to issue of export licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Complaints were received by the Tea Board in 1993 against a few Indian exporters for export of sub-standard and inferior quality teas to Russia and some of the CIS countries.

(b) Indian Embassy in Russia had sent reports in June, 1993 recommending quality control of tea exported to Russia.

(c) In order to enforce strict quality control in exports of tea to Russia, exporters have been advised to obtain quality certificates from SGS, India or any other agency recognised by the Russian importers before obtaining shipment licences for export to Russia/ CIS countries.

**Impact of Beedi Production on market for Tobacco**

2037. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHEL
LAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the beedi industry uses a lot of tobacco;

(b) whether Tobacco Board studied the impact of lowering beedi production on the market for tobacco; and

(c) if so, the details of such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. About 30 percent of the Non-Virginia tobacco produced in the country is consumed by the beedi industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Export of wood and wood products**

2038. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G.PRATHAPAREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total quantity of wood and wood products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to boost the exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.